

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. The §102/103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-18, 21-23 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,421,703 ("Steinmetz").

Claims 6-7, 13-14, 19-20, 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmetz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,322 ("Grawrock").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 recites a method for integrating encryption functionality into a database system. In particular, the method includes providing at least two functions to support data encryption in a database system, and utilizing the at least two functions within structured query language statements.

Such a method has a potential advantage of providing a straightforward and flexible technique to protect confidential data in a database in a manner that allows integration with well-established, non-proprietary SQL techniques (specification page 8, lines 3-10).

Steinmetz discloses a process and system for controlling the use of software – i.e., to prevent piracy of software programs (see Abstract; col. 1, ll. 26-29). Specifically, Steinmetz discloses utilizing a key – or an electronic device 7 – that is detectable by corresponding software program(s) during execution of the software program(s) (col. 1, ll. 42-46; FIG. 1). Codes can be read from or written to the key by calling upon a function (function cnrm) that is in the form of: result=cnrm(var1, var2, ... varn) with n>3. The variables (var1 to varn) correspond to particular

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values associated with functions to be performed with the key (col. 2, ll. 10-32). These functions are listed in columns 9-10 of Steinmetz.

The function cnrm is built into an object file (.OBJ) to be used by programs written in compiled languages (C or PASCAL), or a dynamic library file (.DLL) to be used by programs written in interpreted or semicompiled languages (VISUAL BASIC, WINDEV) (col. 2, ll. 36-45).

Steinmetz, however, fails to disclose utilizing a function to support data encryption in a database system within a structured query language (SQL) statement. Instead, as discussed above, Steinmetz discloses that the cnrm function is implemented in C, PASCAL, VISUAL BASIC or WINDEV (see col. 8, l. 65- col. 9, l. 3). Steinmetz further fails to disclose that the cnrm function – or any of the functions associated with the cnrm function – can be used within a structured query language (SQL) statement.

As the Applicant's specification explains, Relational DataBase Management System (RDBMS) software typically use a Structured Query Language (SQL) interface. The SQL interface has evolved into a standard language for RDBMS software and has been adopted as such by both the American National Standards Organization (ANSI) and the International Standards Organization (ISO) (specification, page 2, lines 2-6). Steinmetz fails in general to disclose using SQL – or SQL statements – with respect to database management.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Steinmetz.

Claims 8, 15, 21 and 25 incorporate limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claims 8, 15 and 21 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are also allowable over Steinmetz for reasons corresponding to those set forth with respect to claim 1.

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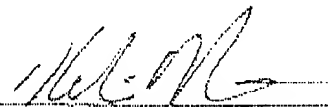
Applicant submits that claims 1-28 are allowable over the references cited above, and are in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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